

New-York Daily Tribune

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NEWS OF THE DAY.

GENERAL NEWS.

While the steamer Chocoma was lying at the wharf at Centre Harbor, N. H., on Wednesday night, some unknown person placed a keg of powder on the furnace, when an explosion took place, blowing up the front deck and shattering the door panels, but not injuring the machinery. No one was much injured on board.

Harold, Payne, Mrs. Surratt and Atzerodt have been found guilty by the Assizes Court-Martial and sentenced to be hung to-day between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Dr. Mudd, Arnold and O'Laughlin have been sentenced to imprisonment and hard labor for life, and Spangler to six years imprisonment and hard labor in the Albany penitentiary.

The Fourth was patriotically celebrated in New-Orleans, Gen. Banks pronouncing an eloquent address, in which he advocated negro suffrage, and a Freedmen's torchlight procession winding up the ceremonies. In addition to this there was another celebration, during which William Reed Mills delivered an address.

A party of colored persons left Fort Monroe to celebrate the Fourth at Smithfield, but were refused a landing by the denizens of that locality, whereupon a disturbance ensued, in which one of the accompanying guard was shot, and Robert Searle of Norfolk wounded.

Advices from Spain state that before the news of the raising of the blockade reached there the Government revoked its recognition of the Rebels as belligerents.

Hon. Henry Winter Davis delivered an address in Chicago on the 4th instant, taking strong grounds in favor of negro suffrage and the Monroe doctrine.

Rear-Admiral Dupont has bequeathed his prize money—amounting to \$175,000—to found a national asylum at Washington for the orphans of soldiers and sailors.

Upon a further and thorough investigation of the subject, the Governor has commuted the sentence of Charles H. Walters to imprisonment for life.

The New-Orleans Times is informed that the Rebel portion of the Cleroques are near starvation, and Gen. Stanley appeals to Texas for relief.

The Hon. W. W. Huppin was on Wednesday elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly, vice the Hon. Thomas Duffie, resigned.

Gov. Fenton left Albany yesterday to recruit his health, which his severe duties have much impaired. He will be absent several weeks.

The American flag which was hauled down by the Rebels from the New Orleans Custom-House is to be restored with all the honors.

Mr. Ford, at Washington, announces the opening of his theater on Monday evening next, with the play of the Orestes.

The heat in Cincinnati has been intense for the last few days, the thermometer ranging as high as 92° in the shade.

It is said that the guerrilla, Champ Ferguson, now in prison at Nashville, has committed no less than 100 murders.

Ex-Gov. Vance has been released from the Old Capitol Prison on parole, and is to return to North Carolina.

Major-Gen. Ord yesterday assumed command of the Northern Military Department, headquarters at Detroit.

About 135 pardons—mostly to North Carolinians—have been granted during the present week.

Gen. Anderson and Admiral Farragut held an informal levee at Faneuil Hall, Boston, yesterday.

A locomotive exploded at Centralia, Ill., on the 4th inst., killing the engineer and fireman.

The President is still indisposed, but improving. He receives no visitors.

It is reported that the Ninth Army Corps will be mustered out in a few days.

Major-Gen. Hooker will shortly arrive in this city to relieve Gen. Dix.

Seven-Thirty were sold yesterday for the amount of \$2,015,100.

Gold opened yesterday at 139, sold down to 138, and closed at 137. There is more doing in gold-buying, Government stocks and higher prices have been paid. Foreign State stocks are firm and in demand. Railroad bonds are offered sparingly. Bank stocks are to be had in trifling lots only. Railway shares were firm all day, and were in trifling demand by speculators for an advance. Money is abundant at 4 1/2 per cent, and lenders use their balances with difficulty. In commercial paper no change, and 6 1/2 per cent covers a wide selection of notes. Exchange is firm, but no advance is quoted.

The late Admiral Dupont has bequeathed all his prize-money—\$175,000—to assist in founding a National Asylum for the relief and education of the orphan children of deceased soldiers and sailors of the Republic. We already knew he was a gentleman and a patriot of rare discernment, especially since we learned that he had subscribed and paid for twelve copies of "The American Conflict," best edition.

We think Gov. Fenton has done right in commencing into imprisonment for life the punishment of Charles H. Walters, who was to have been hanged to-day for the murder of his mistress; and yet we feel that the denunciation of Capital Punishment must in general be better enforced if it is not to be wholly abandoned. Of the last hundred persons who committed murder in our City, not five have been hanged or are likely to be. Our Juries hesitate to convict on any but the most incontestable proof, from a just dread of unjustly taking away by mistake that which can never be restored, so that we estimate the convictions in capital cases as not half what they would be if the legal penalty were imprisonment for life. But of those convicted, but a small percentage are actually hanged, so that the punishment is so rarely inflicted that it almost ceases to be feared. We would amend this by changing the penalty; but, if not changed, it will have to be better enforced. Walters, we learn, seems thoroughly penitent and deeply religious. It is believed by his

spiritual counselors that he will exert a salutary influence in the prison to which he will soon be consigned. There certainly must be a better use for thoroughly Christianized men than hanging them, (though John Brown thought not, in his own case;) yet it will have to be settled somehow that legal penalties are not merely threatened but executed.

David E. Harold, George A. Atzerodt, Lewis Payne (really Powell), and Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, having by the Military Commission lately sitting at Washington been found guilty of conspiring to assassinate President Lincoln, Secretary Seward, and other heads of the Government, and sentenced to be hanged therefor, will be executed accordingly this day.

Of the others implicated in the same conspiracy, or in the execution of some part of it, Michael O'Laughlin, Samuel Arnold, and Dr. Samuel A. Mudd are to be confined in the Penitentiary at Albany for life, and Edward Spangler for six years.

These are all the parties actually arraigned before the Military Commission. Others have been popularly, and even officially, charged with complicity in Booth's awful crime, but we are not informed that any more are to be put on trial therefor. If they should be, we infer that it will be before an ordinary court of law. In fact, since it has been officially adjudged at Philadelphia that the privilege of Habeas Corpus has been restored by the restoration of peace, we presume that no more arrests will be made save on civil process and no more Military trials had save of Military offenders.

—We do not concur with those who deem it particularly revolting to hang a woman. It seems to us horrible that a woman should murder; but, if she does so, she should fare neither better nor worse than other murderers. Let there be no exclusive privileges, even at the gallows.

REDUCTION OF THE HOURS OF LABOR TO EIGHT PER DAY.

What is to be the influence, the effect, of the continual increase of the efficiency of Human Labor, through the progress of Invention and Machinery, on the condition of the great mass of Laboring Men? Are they to experience an incidental benefit through the cheapening of products, and that only? It is probable that the great body of skilled laborers in this country produce double the amount per man of the articles conducive to human sustenance and comfort that the labor of the corresponding class did seventy to ninety years ago. As a consequence of this, mechanics and artisans dress more expensively, fare more generously, have richer furniture, and give their children a better education, than their grandfathers did or could; but is improvement to end here? When the effectiveness of Labor shall have been once more doubled, shall the workman go on toiling from dawn to dark—at least, for ten hours per day—as hitherto? On the contrary, is it not reasonable and proper to anticipate and advocate a further curtailment and limitation of the Hours of Daily Toil, as a natural, legitimate, beneficent consequence of the increased and continually increasing efficiency of Human Effort?

This question has of late been widely discussed among the Mechanics and Artisans of our seaboard cities, and especially by those of Massachusetts, who were enabled at the last session of their Legislature to command its emphatic attention. A Joint Committee was appointed to consider the subject, before whom the Eight-Hour advocates appeared with facts, arguments, documents; and the result was a unanimous report in favor of the Eight-Hour system. That report—barely noticed at the time of its appearance, because of the pressure of momentous events—we now present in full, and ask for it the thoughtful attention of all readers. We do not print it because we endorse its views, but because we deem the subject of the highest importance, and the deliberate judgment of such a Committee, based on a patient, pains-taking inquiry, worthy of most respectful, emphatic consideration. And the fact that Gov. Andrew has appointed, in obedience to a vote of the Legislature, an unpaid and most influential Commission, composed of Rev. Edward E. Hale, Hon. Charles T. Russell, Hon. Joseph White, Dr. H. I. Bowditch and F. B. Sanborn, Esq., to pursue the inquiry, collect testimony, and report the facts and their conclusions to the next Legislature, encourages the hope that the truth, whatever it be, will be developed and established, and the Eight-Hour System, if it be proved correct and beneficial, receive legislative indorsement and sanction from that State which, though widely reviled and hated, has nobly won her title to be considered second in intelligence and enterprise, in energy and industrial efficiency, to no other in the Union.

We beg those whose attention may be drawn to this subject to heed rather the calm, statesmanlike and well-considered positions of the Committee than those of the more especial champions of "the Rights of Labor," whose bar-room and street-corner harangues they may fairly be doomed to undergo. The assumptions that Capital stands in necessarily hostile relations to Labor—that the Eight-Hour system in practice would increase the daily wages while diminishing the daily toil of the workman—that the daily press is controlled by Capital, and therefore dare not discuss the Eight-Hour question nor advocate the just claims of Labor—all this, with much more like it, is in substance what must be borne from ignorance and selfishness, contemplating a great question from the stand-point of personal interest. But it by no means follows that a cause is bad because there are those among its champions who seek to advance it by groundless assumptions and bad logic; and the facts embodied in the Report herewith printed are certainly deserving of grave consideration.

For our own part, we have never yet been able to limit our own hours of labor to sixty per week, and should contemplate their reduction to that number as a welcome solace to advancing years and waning physical energies; yet we cannot realize that our work is less arduous or less deserving than that of mechanics or arti-

sans. But we believe in Progress—in a better physical as well as intellectual and moral condition in the future for the Toiling Millions than they have endured in the past; and we see no reason why muscular exertion should be continuous, as exhausting, after as before the stupendous labor-saving inventions and devices of the present century. We do not believe the Laboring Class can secure more pay by working fewer hours, as they are confidently assured in some of the Eight-Hour appeals before us, for our experience tends entirely in the opposite direction; but it is right that they should fairly participate in the advantages constantly accruing to the public from the use of new inventions and from the expiration of patents issued fourteen to twenty-eight years ago; and it is quite possible that lower wages and more frugal living combined with larger opportunities for reflection and mental improvement, would be hailed by many of them as like acceptable and advantageous. Indefinite only on one point—that whatever is best for Labor is best for Capital as well—we call attention to the subject of a regulation and further limitation of the Hours of Labor, and will gladly receive any facts or suggestions which seem calculated to shed further light thereupon.

MARYLAND—LOYALTY.

The World flippantly says: "THE TRIBUNE has ceased to defend the infamous fraud by which the Maryland Republicans accomplished their partisan purposes in the politics of that State—a fraud compounded in equal parts of lawlessness, force, and bribery of perjury. We take some credit to ourselves for having our neighbor away from his devotion to this acquiescent, pocket-marked and knock-kneed former mistress of his. It was tedious business, but we succeeded; and Mr. Greeley no longer sings his madrigals under that chamber window." &c., &c.

—We can conceive of no sense in which the above averments are not flagrantly at war with the truth. The World knows right well that we hold that the requirement by the Maryland Convention of an oath of loyalty as a prerequisite to voting was not merely justifiable, authorized, and right, but that it was the imperative duty of that body, in view of the notorious disloyalty of thousands of Marylanders, to impose and enforce such a test—that it would have been a gross dereliction not to impose it. We hold loyalty to the Union to be always required of a voter in any State of our Union—that, if this obligation is not expressed, it is because of a confident presumption that all American citizens are thus loyal. Where treason is known to exist—latent in some States, but rampant, dominant, rampant, in others—there we hold that a Convention or other competent authority should prescribe an oath of loyalty in every State still under the loyal rule, and exclude the votes of all who refuse to take that oath. A Marylander whose heart was with the Rebellion had no more right to vote in a local State Election than a cardinal to vote in a convocation of the Established Church of England. If Gustavus W. Smith, Mansfield Lovell, or any other New-York Democrat who fled to Dixie and entered the service of the Rebellion, had come home and offered to vote at the poll we attended last Fall, we certainly should have tried to keep down McClellan's aggregate by challenging him as a traitor, therefore disqualified. In other words, we hold loyalty to the Union, its Constitution and Government, to be fundamentally required of every citizen of this or of any other State, and that no one who adheres or gives aid and comfort to their public, declared, red-handed enemies rightfully is or can be a legal voter. A Constitutional Convention which should be held in any State coupled with the presence of Rebels or Rebel-sympathizers during the progress of a great civil war in our country which should not provide specifically against voting by those public enemies would prove unfaithful to one of its most imperative duties.

All this we have already indicated—every reader understands it—and we will not be driven by any conceivable audacity or scurrility to restate it. Not even the satisfaction of making The World exhibit in new and striking lights the natural affinity between Democracy and Treason shall induce us to reiterate what is already so fully understood.

THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY.

Montalembert, in his brilliant essay on the issue of our war, gives it as his opinion that modern society is "irrevocably democratized." He admits that he has not hitherto been a champion of democratic ideas, and that even now he regrets, in many respects, their approaching and unavoidable triumph. But, as an attentive and intelligent observer of the current of events, he cannot shut his eyes from plain facts, and, as a candid man, he bears his testimony to the manifest triumph of a party with which he never has been and is not now identified.

Montalembert justly remarks that in the present political condition of European society there is only a choice between a liberal democracy, restrained and controlled by unlimited publicity and individual liberty on the one hand, and disciplined democracy, incarnated in the person of one all-powerful individual, on the other. The one is represented by American, the other by Napoleonic democracy. In Europe only one small State, Switzerland, has as yet adopted a democratic form of government; but no statesman pretends to deny that American or republican democracy has a powerful and a growing party in almost every country of Europe. It rules almost without opposition in the large cities of Europe; its ascendancy in literature is becoming every year more undisputed; its leaders possess the confidence of the masses; the sympathy of the great majority of Europe, as yet, adopted a democratic form of government; but no statesman pretends to deny that American or republican democracy has a powerful and a growing party in almost every country of Europe. It rules almost without opposition in the large cities of Europe; its ascendancy in literature is becoming every year more undisputed; its leaders possess the confidence of the masses; the sympathy of the great majority of Europe, as yet, adopted a democratic form of government; but no statesman pretends to deny that American or republican democracy has a powerful and a growing party in almost every country of Europe. 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